Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present to you the very first issue of a new electronic publication of the Faculty of Construction and Land Use, the FCLU e-Bulletin, which, we hope, will play a supplementary role to the newsletter of the Faculty, the FCLU News. Each issue of the FCLU News takes a substantial amount of time to prepare due to its nature and the various steps involved, including the translation of articles from English to Chinese to produce a bilingual newsletter, the design of the layout, the printing process, and the tendering processes involved. As result, the FCLU News is not the best channel for the timely sharing of information among colleagues within the Faculty. In addition, some of the information of interest to FCLU colleagues may not be of interest to the wider readership of the FCLU News. The e-Bulletin is therefore established to fulfil a number of specific objectives so that our internal communication within FCLU is significantly strengthened.

Firstly, the e-Bulletin aims to provide timely reports of news and events which are of interest to colleagues within FCLU. Some of these reports may later be included into the FCLU News, so we welcome comments on articles in the e-Bulletin so that they can be improved before being included in the FCLU News.

Secondly, we would like to use the e-Bulletin to communicate the major decisions and discussions of various Faculty-level committees to colleagues within FCLU to ensure a more transparent and participative decision making process. A list of these committees and the membership of each committee are given within this issue.

I hope that the e-Bulletin will have a third and very important function; that is, colleagues will submit articles to the e-Bulletin to share their personal views about the development of the University, the Faculty, the Departments, and any other issues of interest to other colleagues in the Faculty. Such sharing will ensure that we have two-way communications and you are not only at the receiving end of information. We need your feedback!

In the initial stage, the e-Bulletin, an intra-Faculty communication channel, will only be circulated to members of FCLU, plus a small number of PolyU colleagues outside FCLU.

I know many of you will still be busy during the summer period, but I do hope that you will be able to have a relaxing summer break.

Thank you all for your excellent effort in the past academic year.

With best wishes for a happy summer.

Jin-Guang Teng
Dean (CLU)

Towards Wider Horizons: The First International Postgraduate Conference on Infrastructure and Environment

The First International Postgraduate Conference on Infrastructure and Environment was held at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), Hong Kong, on the 5th and 6th of June 2009. It had been organized by postgraduate research students of the Faculty of Construction and Land Use. Although the Faculty had organized local versions of the Conference annually since 2006, this year it has extended the boundaries to include postgraduates world wide in order to ensure more interaction, collaboration, exchange of views, and to engender friendship. The conference had been very well received; it attracted in total 84 conference papers from 40 universities around the world.

The two-day conference had turned out to be very constructive and enjoyable. We are indebted to the authors and presenters for their contributions, which included innovative research approaches and modeling, as well as invaluable critical comments in the field of Infrastructure and Environment. Conference participants were also privileged to benefit from two keynote addresses, from respectively Prof. Gangbing Song, University of Houston, USA, and Prof. Reinhard Radermacher, University of Maryland, USA. Needless to say, we are also deeply thankful to the two speakers for their valuable time in sharing with us their critical thinking and
in pointing out new directions for researches in the field.

A proceeding volume containing the 84 conference papers was published. It addresses a diverse range of topics within the two broad fields of infrastructure and environment, namely, building energy, urban environment, sustainable urbanization, construction management, structural engineering, geo-informatics and remote sensing. Five papers were awarded as the best papers and 4 presenters were awarded as best presenters. Each best paper and each best presenter received a certificate and a cash prize of HKD 2000.00 in recognition of their professional excellence.

This conference had been inspired by the Dean of the Faculty of Construction and Land Use, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, and was then organized by an Advisory Committee headed by Prof. Y.Q. Chen and Prof. K.T. Chau, and a student Organizing Committee comprising of 9 postgraduate students of this Faculty. Many of the academic and supporting staff members had generously contributed to making this conference a success. Their support and advice are gratefully acknowledged. It is hoped that the Faculty would continue to benefit from their future assistance and support.

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The 4th Research Grants Council Visit

The Research Grants Council (RGC) paid its fourth visit to PolyU on Thursday, 11 June 2009. The purpose of the visit was for its members to accomplish the following:

(a) To familiarize themselves with the overall research activities, research strategies and major achievements of the institutions, regardless of whether these have been funded by University Grants Committee/RGC funds, and covering both academic and contract research.
(b) To inspect research facilities, equipment, project highlights and important research output/results, particularly those funded by the RGC.
(c) To meet and talk with academic staff and students, in situ, about their research activities.

The visiting team was split into small groups to better suit the different research interests of the individual visitors. Given their uniqueness, the constituent departments of the Faculty of Construction and Land Use were grouped as an engineering sub-group to receive the RGC visiting team. Thanks to the support from staff and research students, the visit had proceeded smoothly and successfully.

The visit was kicked off by a central poster exhibition in Fong Shu Chuen Hall. This was followed by presentations providing an overview of research activities in each of the four constituent departments; two presentations on two selected General Research Fund projects were also given. The RGC team visited two laboratories (one in the Department of Building & Services Engineering and one in the Department of Civil & Structural Engineering) before lunch. In the afternoon, the RGC team held two meetings: one with research students and the other with academic staff.

The RGC team was deeply impressed by the achievements of the four departments of the Faculty, especially in light of the small number of UGC-funded RPg places available to the departments. The lack of an adequate number of UGC-funded RPg places at PolyU was raised several times as a serious issue with the visiting team. The visiting team also praised the application value of the researches undertaken in the Faculty.

To conclude, the visit presented a very good opportunity for the Faculty to demonstrate its strengths and achievements in applied research to the RGC visiting team.

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Public Engagement Process on “Building Design to Foster a Quality and Sustainable Built Environment”

The Faculty has been invited by the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) to be one of the partner organizations in the fourth public engagement process of the Council.

This public engagement exercise on “Building Design to Foster a Quality and Sustainable Built Environment” is conducted by the SDC from 20 June 2009 to 31 October 2009. The SDC has already lined up five regional engagement sessions (i.e. Hong Kong Island, Kowloon East, Kowloon West, New Territories East and New Territories West) to reach out to the community. Interested parties should visit http://www.polyu.edu.hk/fclu/eBulletin/July/public.pdf for more details of the programmes. Registration forms
The year plan of the 16th Faculty of Construction and Land Use Students’ Association (FCLUSA) was recently presented to the Faculty of Construction and Land Use (FCLU) at a meeting on 9 June 2009. The master budget of the year plan, which indicates all the activities for FCLUSA members in the 2009/10 academic year was also explained in detail. Prof. Jin-Guang Teng, Dean of FCLU has kindly agreed to a grant in support of all the activities. The FCLUSA is committed to promoting FCLU and FCLUSA among the community at large. Within the University itself, it attends to its members’ welfare and also provides them with entertainment. The highlights of this year would include the Orientation for new members, Mega Sales, a Joint Universities Christmas Party, a Study Tour and a Singing Contest. The major breakthrough would be the addition of activities which aim to promote the students’ understanding of the different academic disciplines within the Faculty; these activities should then in turn enhance the completeness of the Association’s functions. Prof. Jin-Guang Teng, Dean of FCLU and Prof. Geoffrey Q.P. Shen, Associate Dean of FCLU, have kindly made a number of well-considered suggestions, namely, a Faculty Logo Design Competition, a Competition for a hotel development project and a Debating Competition. The FCLUSA subsequently presented these three suggestions to the Council of students of the Faculty for consideration. The Council deemed it appropriate for the time being to hold only the Faculty Logo Design Competition.

Meeting of the 16th FCLUSA with the Dean and Associate Dean

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List of FCLU Committees and their membership

For membership of the following committees, please visit

- Faculty Board

- Faculty Executive Committee

- Faculty Research Committee

- Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee

- Committee on self-financed Postgraduate Scheme in Construction and Land Use

- Faculty Outcome-based Education Working Group

As a partner of the Council, the Faculty is organizing a “Forum on Sustainable Urban and Building Development” on Saturday, 22 August 2009 (exact time and venue to be announced later). The purpose of this exercise is to stimulate community discussion on how a quality and sustainable built environment may be achieved through three key areas:
1) Possible sustainable building design options.
2) Control options on existing building design policy related to Gross Floor Area (GFA).
3) Building energy efficiency.

Representatives from local government departments as well as academic and industrial organizations will be invited to participate in the Forum. It goes without saying that all academic members of staff of FCLU are encouraged to participate in the Forum.

and information about the SDC are available from www.susdev.org.hk